

INTELLOFAX 21

FORM NO.
FEB 1952 51-4AA

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY**
SECURITY INFORMATION**INFORMATION REPORT**

25X1

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 1 April 1952

SUBJECT Public Health Services in Bulgaria

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**REFERENCE COPY**

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793
AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVE-
LATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS
PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

1. Public health services in Bulgaria are fairly well organized and have high standards, although their development has been hampered by technical, financial, and political difficulties. In 1945 a reorganization of these services took place. Several new laws and regulations, and amendments to laws already existing were issued; the following were included:

- a. Centralization of public health services;
- b. Fight against infectious diseases;
- c. Medical border control;
- d. Control of food and beverages;
- e. Welfare of mother and child;
- f. Health insurance; and
- g. Decentralization of university education.

2. At present all public health services are under the Ministry of Health, which is divided into four departments: Administration, Hospitals, Trade & Industry, and Medical Education. The Ministry has divided the country into seven districts, and has established Health Councils in the cities and subordinate bodies in every town and village. A Health Council normally consists of one physician and an unspecified number of male nurses, plus representatives of the trade unions, of the community, and of the Party. Each Council is responsible for all health services in its district. A Council is entitled to initiate orders or regulations pertaining to hygiene, etc.

Document No.	001
Re Change in Class.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Declassified	<input type="checkbox"/>
Class. Changed To:	TS S (C)
Auth:	NR 70-2
SEP 11	1978

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY**

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION								
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBI										

112-118292

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 2 -

25X1

3. In 1949-50 the State University ceased to be autonomous, and now each faculty belongs to a special Ministry. Thus the Ministry of Health is responsible for the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Pharmaceutics. It also determines student enrollment.
4. After two years of general medical training at the University, students are divided into three groups and proceed to specialize in courses for general practitioners, courses for surgery, or courses for administration and hygiene.
5. The principles of hygiene are taught in all primary schools. In addition to those courses mentioned above, the University had courses for
 - a. Practicing nurses and physicians (who are required to attend certain courses annually); and
 - b. Civilians who are to be air raid wardens and who are otherwise involved in first-aid work.
6. In 1948 all pharmacies in Bulgaria were nationalized. Pharmacies are required to submit to the Ministry annual reports on the quantities and kinds of drugs dispensed or needed. From the information contained in these reports a plan has been devised to regulate local production, imports, and reserves. The institution responsible for the execution of this plan is the Department for Sanitary and Pharmaceutical Articles; which is also responsible for the import and production of medicines, drugs, and instruments. This Department is divided into three sections:
 - a. Section for the production of drugs and instruments;
 - b. Section for the import of raw material and prepared medicines; and
 - c. Sales Section.
7. Some surgical instruments are manufactured in Bulgaria, but for the most part they are imported from Poland and Czechoslovakia. All pharmaceutical products, except antibiotics, are produced locally but not in sufficient quantities. Among the drugs produced are hormone preparations, vitamins, sera, and vaccines. No anti-biotics are produced in Bulgaria except crude penicillin. No crystallized penicillin is produced. Penicillin is the only drug imported from the USSR.
8. Salvarsan and Neosalvarsan are imported from Poland. Drugs containing anticoagulants dicumarol and thiouracil are imported from Czechoslovakia. Teva and Zori preparations are imported from Israel. Bulgaria grows many medical herbs, but the quantity is not sufficient and raw materials have to be imported, especially: iodine, salicylic acid, quinine, bromides, etc. To remedy the present shortage, in the agricultural plan for Bulgaria special areas have been set aside for growing herbs; farmers growing them enjoy special privileges.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 3 -



25X1

9. Abnormal relations with the West have brought about, primarily, a lack of antibiotics, a lack of experts in spinal anaesthesia, and a lack of many raw materials. Antibiotics are rationed severely and only the chief physician of a district or his assistant is entitled to distribute them. Elaborate questionnaires must be filled out and attested to by at least two doctors whenever antibiotics are needed. The questionnaires are then sent to the chief physician, who issues permits partly by determining the urgency of individual cases and partly by reference to a preference list which establishes the following priority for the issuance of antibiotics:

- a. Partisans;
- b. War invalids;
- c. Members of collective farms;
- d. Men employed on heavy labor jobs;
- e. Officials; and
- f. The rest of the population.

This preference list is also used in the distribution of hormones and other rare drugs, including calcium preparations which are in short supply because of a scarcity of glass vials. The preference list is also used for selecting students for admission to the University.

10. Some Bulgarian physicians get further training at Soviet universities, and a few Soviet specialists are active in Bulgaria as advisors to the Ministry of Health and the Health Councils. Soviet influence has been especially apparent in the propaganda extensively circulated in Bulgaria advocating preventive medicine and in the establishment of the plan described in paragraph six above.
11. The standard of army medicine is high. Military physicians get higher salaries than civilians and are allowed to practice privately. A special military medical academy exists, and the leading military physician is also a university professor. The military medical services are well provided for and enjoy special privileges.
12. All hospitals are government hospitals, and every physician is obliged to be in government service. Administrative physicians get higher salaries than practitioners, since they are not permitted to practice privately; however, there are few opportunities for private practice even for the practitioners. Physicians' salaries range from 10,500 to 22,000 leva. Physicians not considered politically reliable are sent to small localities.
13. Ambulance service is inadequate.
14. The University Hospital owns radium therapy apparatus.
15. In 1948 all X-ray and cardiograph apparatus were nationalized. There is a shortage of such apparatus which in general is not manufactured in Bulgaria.
16. Everyone is obliged to belong to the sick fund, and a member's monthly contribution amounts to one percent of his salary. Every citizen is entitled to get medical treatment at the state institutions.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY